



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in the Former Soviet Union and Central Europe as of March 16, 2004

Efforts Relating to the Cold War

Remains Repatriated (<i>Remains Positively Identified: 6</i>)	21		Remaining Unaccounted-for	77
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- The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission continues its research efforts on U.S. Cold War losses at the Central Naval Archives at Gatchina, near St. Petersburg. Thanks to these efforts, dozens of new witnesses have been identified for several of the losses. Commission representatives have been able to locate and interview a number of these witnesses in Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia, contributing to clarifying these cases. Work continues at the Gatchina archives and in the field.
- Research also continues at the Central Archives of the Border Guards at Pushkino, near Moscow. A Russian researcher found documentation in this archive containing data about Cold War losses that occurred on April 8, 1950; November 6, 1951; July 29, 1953; and April 18, 1955. A request for that documentation has been formally made to the Russian side of the Commission.
- JCSD's Russian researcher, Admiral (ret.) Novyy, has led efforts to conduct additional research in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk (this pertains to the 1 July 1960 case). Personnel files of Soviet servicemen involved in this incident may be held in this archive and may reveal the last known addresses of these key witnesses. Members of the commission may interview these individuals in the near future.
- The U.S. Co-Chairman of the Cold War Working Group, Mr. A. Denis Clift, met with his Russian counterparts in Moscow in April 2003, and JCSD has planned a plenary session for 2004. The American side continues to seek broader access to Russian archives and closer support by the Russians of American Cold War investigations in the former USSR.

Efforts Relating to the Korean War

- Through the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, the U.S. has routine access to the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk, Russia, for research in unclassified files from the Korean War era. Since August 1997, when such access was first granted to American researchers, DPMO has collected over 32,000 pages of materials relating to U.S. loss incidents in the Korean War. To date, 263 cases involving unaccounted-for American servicemen from the Korean War have, to varying degrees, been clarified thanks to this initiative.
- DPMO researchers working for the Joint Commission continue to press for expanded access to Russian archives with particular interest in classified files at the Podolsk archives and in the archives of the Russian security services, such as the former KGB and the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) of the Russian General Staff.

- Joint Commission researchers have interviewed over 530 Soviet veterans of the Korean War since the Commission began its work in the former USSR. These interviews have provided valuable information about Soviet involvement in the Korean War and, in some cases, fate-clarifying information on unaccounted-for Americans. From this work, the Joint Commission has concluded in its 1996 Comprehensive Report that there is a high probability that a number of American POWs from the Korean War era were transferred to the former USSR.
- The U.S. Co-Chairman of the Korean War Working Group, Congressman Sam Johnson, met with his Russian counterparts in Moscow in January 2003 seeking broader archival access and closer support from the Russian Interior Ministry and security services. He also met with government officials in the Czech Republic and in Hungary requesting greater access to archives believed to hold material on U.S. servicemen unaccounted for from Korea, Vietnam and World War II.
- A team of Joint Commission researchers also is investigating numerous reports of American POWs who reportedly were incarcerated in the Soviet corrective labor camp system (GULag). These researchers frequently travel to Russia to conduct on-the-ground research at former GULag campsites and to interview former GULag prisoners. In addition, the team has initiated research at the State Archives of the Russian Federation to review at least some of the thousands of GULag-related documents generated by the Soviet ministry responsible for overseeing the GULag. Research at the U.S. National Archives also has been expanded to include thousands of reports from former German and Japanese POWs from World War II who were detained in the GULag, several of which have already yielded information on possible American POWs.

Efforts Relating to the Vietnam War

- The U.S. side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission continues to press the Russian side for access to Vietnam War-era documents in Russian archives, especially the Ministry of Defense Central Archive in Podolsk, the GRU (Military Intelligence), and the security services' archives.
- Meanwhile, the Russian Co-Chairman of the Commission's Vietnam War Working Group, General Major Nikolai Bezborodov, who also is an elected deputy in the Russian parliament (the State Duma) also has asked the Russian General Staff to declassify its holdings of Vietnam War-era documents. This is a hopeful development that the Commission will continue to pursue.
- On two occasions, the Russian side has passed a total of 356 declassified excerpts from the Podolsk archives containing sketchy shoot down information. The U.S. side has analyzed these materials, and follow up requests for information have been passed to the Russian side.

Efforts Relating to World War Two

- Research conducted by the Joint Commission led to a 2002 recovery at a WWII crash site in eastern Russia and the identification of the seven-member crew of a U.S. Navy PV-1 lost in 1945.
- Field and analytical work in Hungary has provided valuable information on the circumstances of loss surrounding about a dozen incidents encompassing over 20 unaccounted-for airmen. The CILHI has surveyed two of the sites, and both have been recommended for recovery.
- Joint Commission Support analysts have invested numerous hours in research in archives in Russia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. This research is providing specific information that is being validated by site visits and interviews with those who were witnesses to the crashes or in some other manner involved with the loss. This effort is being expanded to other countries in Central Europe.